

MAROONED BY EITEL; SAFE.

Crews of the Jean and Kildalton Reach Panama from Easter Island.

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

PANAMA, March 12.—The crews of the the British bark Kildalton and the ship Jean, including seven English apprentice boys about 15 years old, who were on the Kildalton, were brought here yesterday from Easter Island by the Swedish ship Nordic. They are enjoying today the first good food they have had in two months.

Capt. William Sharp of the Kildalton said: "We were put ashore on the lonely island on New Year's Eve with a small amount of coffee, sugar, and beans, and found a few Kanaka natives and Englishmen. The manager of the Easter Island freighting company there was most hospitable, but there was not enough food to feed forty-eight extra men. We made our food last as long as possible, but it was gone in a month.

"After that we fished for food and got a small amount of native vegetables and bananas, although we never were in danger of starvation. All the time the weather was excellent and we enjoyed ourselves, but we watched constantly for ships, and at night burned bonfires.

"When we were captured by the Prinz Eitel Friedrich she sank our general cargo. From the Jean they took 3,000 tons of coal, which the Germans needed badly. We were well treated on the German ship, which reported having sunk a big French steamer and a freighter shortly after Christmas. She also sank many other French and English sailing vessels.

"The boarding crew which took over my ship was made up of 100 heavily armed Germans. The crews of other captured vessels are said to have been landed at other small islands or deserted spots on the coast of South America.

"No ships saw our signals at Easter Island until the afternoon of Feb. 26, when the Nordic saw them and put in. We had been captured before Christmas and spent Christmas Day aboard the Prinz Eitel Friedrich. The Germans held a celebration which we attended. The Nordic took off all my crew and all but seven Frenchmen who desired to go to Chile.

"A touch of romance was added to our stay on the island—a French sailor fell in love with a Kanaka girl, married her, and got a job from the English manager of the Easter Island Trading Company, who performed the ceremony in English. He will settle and live there. Both of the crews and the entire population of the island attended the ceremony.

"One member of my crew, David Campbell of Glasgow, died on the island from stomach trouble, so we had a wedding and a funeral during our exile."

The Englishmen will be sent to Southampton in a few days. The Frenchmen will go to France on the next ship. Both crews were objects of much interest today in Panama.